

Application Serial No: 10/730,341
In reply to Office Action of 14 December 2006

Attorney Docket No. 82999

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended): An apparatus ~~according to claim 4~~ for
deploying and recovering a towed line array from a vehicle,
comprising:

a cylindrical drum located inside the vehicle upon which to
spool the towed line array;

an electric motor joined to rotate said cylindrical drum;

an electro-mechanical winding guide whose movement is
synchronized with that of the cylindrical drum for
guiding and retaining the towed line array in a

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slidable manner as the towed line array is wound onto
said cylindrical drum;

~~where in said means for guiding and retaining the towed
line array further comprises a plurality of stationary
winding guides internal to the vehicle through which
said towed line array is guided; and~~

a reverse thruster joined at an end of the towed line array
outside the vehicle, said reverse thruster capable of
propelling itself away from the vehicle.

7. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim [[4]] 6
~~wherein said means for guiding and retaining the towed line array~~
further ~~comprises~~ comprising a tension sensor capable of measuring
the tension of said towed line array and joined to said electric
motor such that said tension sensor automatically adjusts power to
said electric motor that turns said cylindrical drum to maintain a
constant tension on said towed line array during deployment.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 6
wherein said reverse thruster further comprises:

a housing joined to the end of the towed line array having a

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water inlet port and a water exit port formed therein;

a paddle wheel positioned in said housing;

an electric motor in said housing joined to said paddle wheel
to generate thrust.

9. (original) An apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said
reverse thruster further comprises:

a buoyant section within said housing; and

a counterweight in said housing to correct for rolling.

10. (original) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said
reverse thruster further comprises a depth sensor joined to a
control system of the vehicle.

11. (new) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said electric
motor further comprises a commutator assembly.

12. (new) An apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising a
tube external to the vehicle through which said towed line array
is guided.